

Application No. 09/915,532
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.111
Reply to Office Action dated November 4, 2004
March 1, 2005

REMARKS

By this amendment, Figure 12 has been added, and the specification has been editorially amended to include the step numbers from new Figure 12. Also, claims 1, 8, 9 and 14-22 have been cancelled and claims 2-3 and 10 have been rewritten into independent form. Currently, claims 2-7 and 10-13 are pending in the application.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-7 and 10-13 is noted with appreciation.

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner believed that the originally filed drawings do not illustrate any steps related to claims 1-8.

Attached hereto is new formal drawing for Figure 12, which illustrates the steps described in the specification. Support for this Figure 12 drawing is found in the specification including those locations referred to by reference to the steps S1-S9. No new matter has been entered. It is therefore respectfully requested that this new drawing be approved and that the objection of the drawings be withdrawn.

Claims 2-7 and 10-13 were objected to as being dependent on

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The new drawing for Figure 12 has been added to the application. Therefore, please add the attached drawing sheet to the original drawing sheets.

Attachment: New Drawing Sheet for Figure 12

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rejected claims but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 2-3 and 10 have been rewritten into independent form including the limitations of their respective base claims. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-7 and 10-13 are allowable.

Claims 14-21 were rejected under 35 USC 101. By this amendment, claims 14-22 have been cancelled and this rejection is now moot.

Claims 1, 8, 9, 14, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Mackinnon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,148,115) in view of Sathe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,021,216). By this amendment, claims 1, 8, 9, 14, 21 and 22 have been cancelled. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

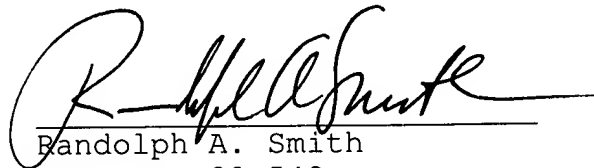
Therefore, in view of foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-7 and 10-13 are allowable over the prior art of record. Thus, applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and an action to this effect is respectfully requested.

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If there are any questions or concerns regarding the amendments or these remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 1, 2005


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